

Executive Director Report
November 20, 2008

Budget

- \$100,000 in grant funding was awarded to the Commission by the California Coastal Conservancy for facilitation of the planning and feasibility process for The Great California Delta Trail in Solano and Contra Costa Counties. The funding will support the Commission's contract with the Alta Planning Team.
- \$6,300 member contribution for the 2008/2009 Fiscal Year has been received from the Bay Delta Authority. Other contributions for 2008/2009 Fiscal Year have been received, to date, from Department of Water Resources (\$35,000 cumulative), County of Contra Costa (commitment of in-kind technical staff support), and County of Yolo (commitment of in-kind services).
- Received commitment of \$80,000 (\$40,000 in-kind services) from Contra Costa County to support Delta Trail planning in Contra Costa County.
- \$14,000 (approximate) was recovered in salary savings from the transition of the Deputy Director, Special Projects position from full-time upon the retirement of Suzanne Butterfield on July 23, 2008 to part-time retired annuitant through November 11, 2008.
- Facilitated \$400,000 contribution from State Lands Commission Kapiloff Land Bank Fund to the Greater Vallejo Recreation District for completion of a link of the Delta Trail, and other public trust uses, as components of the Glen Cove Waterfront Park along the Carquinez Strait, Solano County.
- Awaiting outcome of grant awards of the Solano County Fish and Game Wildlife Propagation Fund relative to Commission application in the amount of \$100,000 (\$7,995 for DPC staff support) for Delta Trail link (including educational outreach components) in Solano County.
- Awarded grant from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for Delta Trail Planning.
- Continuing to await receipt of grant funds that have been awarded to Commission for Working Landscapes Demonstration Project and Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum.

Administration/Staffing

- Brian Wilkinson, formerly Public Land Management Specialist with the Wildlife Conservation Board, has accepted the Deputy Director, Special Projects position effective November 12, 2008. Other previous employment includes Department of General Services and the Tahoe Conservancy. The position was vacated by Suzanne Butterfield upon her retirement in July (full-time) and November 11, 2008 (part-time retired annuitant). Nine applications were received and five potential candidates were

interviewed in consultation with the Commission's Human Resources Sub-committee comprised of Commissioners Tilghman and McGowan.

- Staff is working with the California Department of Technology Services to convert e-mail services to the State format which will improve efficiency, including transition to “.ca.gov” e-mail.

Legislation

- Senate Bill 27 (Simitian), Delta Emergency Preparedness Planning and Response was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor effective January 1, 2009.
- Assembly Bill 2504 (DeSaulnier), Delta Marketing and Economic Development was passed by the Legislature but vetoed by the Governor.

Projects/Facilitation

- The Management Plan Update process is continuing to progress pursuant to document review and input provided at public workshops and meetings of the MPU Planning Advisory Team.
- The Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum is continuing to progress with meetings to date focusing primarily on flood related information sharing. Future discussion topics identified to date include habitat restoration, agriculture and recreation.
- Participating in Delta Emergency Preparedness Planning and Response meetings and discussions involving county, state and federal entities in order to coordinate existing programs and in anticipation of implementing provisions of Senate Bill 27, including Phase II of the Commission's Strategy Concept.
- Delta Trail planning and project activities, pursuant to mandates to the Commission under Senate Bill 1556, have included: preparation and submittal of grant applications (Coastal Conservancy [awarded], Caltrans, Solano County, National Park Service [awarded], and Proposition 84); securing funding support and commitment (Contra Costa County and State Lands Commission); facilitation of project implementation (Glen Cove Waterfront Park); identification of existing overlay opportunities; and logo development.
- Facilitating and participating in discussions with appropriate local and state entities concerning abandoned vessel issues and potential programs to address such issues.
- Continuing to stay engaged in Delta initiatives/processes underway (including Bay Delta Conservation Plan, State Water Plan Update, Delta Risk Management Strategy and Delta Vision) in order to provide the Commission with timely updates.
- Continuing research for development of feasibility study relative to National Heritage Area application for designation.

- Met with State Park Planning Team to discuss the draft Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan as it relates to the Delta Protection Act and Management Plan policies
- Facilitated discussions with Discover the Delta Foundation relative to Commission member entity participation in exhibit development for the proposed Delta Discovery Center.
- Participated in Department of Fish and Game/Department of Water Resources Levee/Habitat Calfed Sub-committee meetings.

Public Affairs/Outreach

- Conducted Delta tour for staff of Congresswoman Tauscher, particularly with focus on agriculture, habitat and water.
- Nominated Senator Tom Torlakson for the National American Trails Award resulting in his selection for the Public Servant Award out of 200 nominations.
- Made presentation to Association of Bay Area Governments relative to Delta initiatives underway, particularly Bay Delta Conservation Plan and Delta Vision.
- Made a presentation to the Contra Costa County LAFCO on the Commission and Delta initiatives underway.
- Made a presentation to the Pacific University Founder's Class on Water and Urban Development in the Delta.
- Made a presentation to the Sons in Retirement, Discovery Bay Chapter on Delta initiatives and issues.
- Served as a member of the panel on the future of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary at the California Water Policy 18 Conference in Pasadena.
- Made presentation to Solano County Parks Commission relative to Commission application for Fish and Game Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant.
- Pursuant to request from Carquinez Strait Preservation Trust participated in discussions to identify opportunities for coordination relative to applying for National Heritage Area designation.
- Attended Habitat Conservation Planning from Tahoe to Bay annual conference.
- Participated in Resource Agency Directors meetings.
- Participated in weekly meetings of DWR public information officers.